Financial aids under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi

2495. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people suffering from cancer, AIDS and kidney related diseases are eligible for financial assistance under Rashitriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN);

(b) the details of patients got financial assistance under RAN in the State of Andhra Pradesh since its inception, year-wise; and

(c) what is the eligibility criteria for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), financial assistance is provided to poor patients living "Below Poverty Line" (BPL) suffering from major life threatening diseases and receiving medical treatment at any Government Hospital; while Cancer and Kidney related diseases are covered, AIDS as such is not covered under this scheme. In Andhra Pradesh, there is a State Illeness Assistance Fund to which Central Government makes contribution and patients from Andhra Pradesh requiring financial assistance up to Rs. 1.50 lakhs get the same from State Level Fund. So far there has been no case of any patient belonging to Andhra Pradesh getting assistance from the Central Committee of RAN.

Cheap treatment to village people

†2496. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of growing influence of private sector in the system of medicine, overhauling of existing health policy is required in order to provide cheap and effective treatment to common man at village areas in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideraton of Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outline of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Health Policy, 2002 has laid down the major objective as achieving an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. It laid emphasis on providing increased access to decentralized public health system, enhancing public health investment, convergence of public programmes etc. It also recognizes the contribution of private sector in providing health services and welcomes its participation in all areas of health activities.

(c) and (d) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with weak health indicators and health infrastructure. The main aim is to provide accesible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable healthcare, especially to poor and vulnerable sections of population. The strategy is to undertake architectural correction of the health system and promote policies that strengthen public health management and service delivery in the country. Public, private partnership is also an important strategy under National Rural Health Mission.

Approval of Ayurveda formulations and medicines

2497. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurveda formulations and medicines are proposed to be covered by a system of approval by the Drug Controller General of India;

(b) if so, how many such Ayurvedic formulations have been identified for such approvals and the progress made in this direction;